PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN BOUNDARY

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) designated basin boundaries for groundwater basins in California, and requires local agencies to work together to manage groundwater resources in their basins. DWR <u>regulations</u> provide an opportunity for local agencies to propose modifications to groundwater basin boundaries to promote sustainable groundwater management.

On February 3, 2016, in accordance with DWR regulations Section § 343.9, the County submitted to the DWR an initial notification of its interest to explore a jurisdictional basin boundary modification. The potential Boundary Modification would adjust the shared boundary between the North American Groundwater Basin and South Yuba Groundwater Subbasin to the north, to align the Subbasin boundary with the shared Yuba / Placer County boundary. This minor change (affecting approximately 2 square miles) would eliminate the need for the County to manage multiple subbasins and place the South Yuba Subbasin entirely within Yuba County in that area, promoting more efficient and sustainable groundwater management.

To view a map of the proposed Basin Boundary Modification, click <u>here</u>. To view the County's submitted Initial Notification, click <u>here</u>.

Pursuant to § 343.9, a local agency must also make general information about its process publicly available by posting relevant information to the local agency's Internet Web site. This notice is intended to provide general information to the public in accordance with § 343.9.

On March 8, 2016, Placer County Board of Supervisors authorized a formal Request to the DWR requesting the Boundary Modification. A copy of the Board agenda can be found here.

NEW: County staff submitted the Request for a Basin Boundary Modification on March 25, 2016. On March 30, 2016, the DWR notified the County that the Request was determined "complete". This action initiates a 30-day Public Input Period.

Pursuant to § 343.10(d), a local agency must also provide general information about the public input process to local agencies and water systems in the affected basin, and to any other person or entity that has made written request for notification. This notice is intended to provide that information.

Public comments can be made pursuant to § 343.12 (step by step instructions provided in the DWR Guidance Document):

- (a) Any person may provide information to support or oppose a proposed boundary modification request as follows:
 - (1) Public input must be submitted by written notice to the Department within 30 days after the Department posts a notice that the request is complete pursuant to Section 343.10(c).

- (2) Public input must include the name, address, and electronic mail address of the person or entity providing that input.
- (3) Public input must include a clear statement of the basis for the support of or opposition to the proposed boundary modification.
- (4) The level of detail provided by public input need not be as comprehensive as that contained in the request, but must rely on similar scientific and technical information as the particular boundary modification request to which it is addressed, and will be evaluated by the Department using the same criteria.
- (b) The Department shall post all public input on the Department's Internet Web site.
- (c) The Department is not required to respond to comments received through public input, but will consider such comments as part of its evaluation of a boundary modification request.
- (d) The Department shall give the requesting agency a reasonable opportunity to respond to public input, including the opportunity to modify the boundary modification request.